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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC 1. Soviet Troops in BURG

2. Soviet Tank and Artillery Units Leaving for Fall Maneuvers in
the GOMBERG - ALTENGRABOW - GENTHIN Area.

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DATE OF CONTENT See below

25X1 DATE PREPARED 21 November 1949

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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Mid-September 1949

1. The kasernes of BURG (M 53/Y 81) were occupied as follows:

a. Alte Kaserne: Tank units of about 800 troops, equipped with JS-122 tanks, Shchuka tanks and SU 152 self-propelled guns. **

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19 September 1949

A general, [redacted] arrived at the kaserne for an inspection. His car was repeatedly observed up to 24 September 1949.

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b. Neue Kaserne: Artillery units totaling about 700 troops. About forty 75 and 150-mm field guns and 50 and 88-mm AA guns were in the gun storage houses.

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2. Tank and artillery units left BURG, going to maneuvers in the GOMBERG (M 53/D 79) - ALTENGRABOW (M 53/Z 00) - GENTHIN (M 53/Z 03) area. **

The following activity was seen:

24 September 1949: Six SU 152 self-propelled guns left the Alte Kaserne for GENTHIN

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NO CHANGE in Class

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27 and 28 September 1949: Twelve tanks were entrained for Genthin.

1 October 1949:

a. Twenty to thirty armored vehicles from the Alte Kaserne moved through BURG, proceeding south.

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4 October 1949:

b.

Each truck was occupied by 10 to 15 fully equipped soldiers with steel helmets. All machine guns were mounted behind the driver's cab of some trucks.

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b. Convoy of 12 heavy-duty caterpillar tractors towing 70 to 80-mm guns (with rubber-tires, 17 to 20-foot barrels and muzzle brake) [redacted] towing ammunition trailers, left

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the Neue Kaserne. The doors of the driver's cabs of the tractors were marked with yellow crossed gun barrels on a red-bordered black field.

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Comment:

* SU 152 self-propelled guns were seen to be mounted near an aluminum tube, about 3 1/2 feet long and 40-mm in diameter, allegedly an infrared device, in front of the turret. All armored vehicles seen in the Alte Kaserne were highly maneuverable and capable of performing sharp turns.

** A convoy of eight trucks was observed at SCHERLEN (W 53/Y 71), going in the direction of BURG, on 3 October 1949.

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Comment:

The report indicates that the troops of the BURG military post (i.e. the 136th Gds/Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army and Group of Occupation Forces Germany artillery units), having returned from summer maneuvers at the Letzling Heath (tank troops) and the ALWENGRABOW range (artillery troops) in mid-September 1949, again left BURG on 24 September 1949 for maneuvers. Similar information was reported from SCHUNDAL.

The troops from the BURG military post are believed to have participated in the large-scale final maneuvers of the Third Shock Army which were held in the area east of the Elbe River, north of the BURG-ALWENGRABOW-BELZIG line.

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